

## Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7296

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FOR CU/IVP/V AND EUR/WE

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TAGS: OEXC (ELF-AIR FRANCE GROUP)

SUBJECT: VOLUNTARY VISITORS: ELF-AIR FRANCE FOUNDATION  
GROUP 1975 VISIT

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS MET MARCH 4 WITH LUCIEN MATRAT, DELEGATE GENERAL OF ELF-AIR FRANCE FOUNDATION. AS IN PAST YEARS, FOUNDATION IS SELECTING A SMALL GROUP OF PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE, MOSTLY IN THEIR 30'S AND ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN FRENCH GOVERNMENT POLICY-MAKING, TO PARTICIPATE IN STUDY TOUR OF TWO TO THREE MONTHS TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES TO EXAMINE A SPECIFIC SUBJECT. GROUP WILL THEN PRODUCE COLLECTIVE STUDY (1,000 COPIES) TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO TOP FRENCH POLICY MAKERS. FOUNDATION AGAIN PROPOSES TO SEND A STUDY GROUP TO US, THIS YEAR TO EXAMINE THE PROJECT: "THE STATUS OF LABOR IN HEAVY INDUSTRY AND ITS INFLUENCE ON SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC EVOLUTION." GROUP -- APPROXIMATELY EIGHT PERSONS -- WOULD PLAN TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON AROUND NOVEMBER 8-9, AND HAVE THREE FULL WEEKS FOR PROGRAMMING, DEPARTING US AROUND DECEMBER 1. BEFORE US VISIT, GROUP WILL HAVE VISITED ITALY, YUGOSLAVIA AND GDR.

2. IN EACH COUNTRY GROUP PROPOSES TO EXPLORE FOUR BASIC INDUSTRIES: STEEL, CHEMICAL, AUTOMOTIVE AND ELECTRONICS. THEIR PRIMARY FOCUS WOULD BE TYPE AND QUALITY OF HUMAN AND WORK RELATIONSHIPS ON JOB SITE, STRUCTURE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF AUTHORITY PYRAMID, MANAGEMENT AND

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EMPLOYEE CONCERN WITH QUESTION OF QUALITY OF WORKING

LIVES, WORKER PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AT VARIOUS LEVELS, TRADE UNION ROLE AND INFLUENCE. SINCE GROUP WILL BE VISITING COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS, EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO OBSERVE AND REFLECT ON MANNER IN WHICH THESE DIFFERENCES AFFECT OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE OF PRODUCTIVE UNITS, ECONOMIC GOALS, DEFINITION OF EFFICIENCY AND HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS.

3. IN VIEW OF BROADGUAGEOF GROUP'S MANDATE THEY HOPE TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH SCHOLARS IN SOCIOLOGY, ECONOMICS AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS WHO ARE INVOLVED IN "JOB ENRICHMENT" TYPE EXPERIMENTS AND HAVE WRITTEN ON THE SUBJECT.

4. MATRAT AGREED THAT US PROGRAM SHOULD BEGIN WITH SEVERAL WORKING DAYS IN WASHINGTON, INCLUDING ORIENTATION, MEETINGS AT DEPARTMENTS OF STATE, LABOR, AFL-CIO, NLRB, PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL, ETC. IN ORDER TO HOLD DOWN TRAVEL COSTS, MATRAT AGREED WITH OUR JUDGMENT THAT GROUP COULD ACCOMPLISH MISSION WHILE RESTRICTING TRAVEL ROUGHLY TO EASTERN HALF OF US. MATRAT HOPES THAT GROUP CAN FOLLOW A CIRCULAR TRAVEL PATTERN IN VISITING CITIES TO AVOID ANY DOUBLING BACK. WE MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE TARGET CITIES BOSTON, PITTSBURGH, CLEVELAND, DETROIT AND GARY. WE VISUALIZE A PROGRAM SIMILAR TO THAT ORGANIZED IN JANUARY 1974 FOR LAGRANGE, DELAMOTTE AND CONDON.

5. MATRAT ALSO RAISED POSSIBILITY OF DIVIDING GROUP INTO TWO SECTIONS OF FOUR PEOPLE, WITH EACH SECTION FOLLOWING A SEPARATE ITINERARY AFTER JOINT VISIT IN WASHINGTON. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO THIS IDEA.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: BY MARCH 20 IF POSSIBLE (SO THAT FOUNDATION CAN BEGIN DETAILED PLANNING), WASHINGTON'S SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR ITINERARY AND PROGRAM, INCLUDING TENTATIVE SELECTION OF CITIES WHICH CAN BEST ACHIEVE GROUP'S AIM.

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